

TRAMETES SERPENS

This species was first described by Fries in 1818 under *Polyporus*, then transferred to *Daedalea* in 1821, and finally to *Trametes* in 1874. In the "Systema," the following description of it appears:

"*D. serpens*, effusa, suberoso-tenuis, confluens, ligneo-pallens, margine villosa, poris magnis inaequalibus.

"Color *D. quercinae*. Margo tenuis, pubescens. Sinulorum dissepimenta crassa. Inter corticis rimas per lineas elongatas seriatae & confluentes serpit. *Ad truncos Quercus mortuos, sed non prostratos!*"

This description was well supplemented by Fries in his *Icon. pl. 192, f. 3*, which shows the characteristic, large, unequal pores, over 1 mm. in diameter. The spores are said to be ovoid, hyaline, $14 \times 6\mu$, and no mention is made of setae. I have examined specimens in the various European herbaria and have in the collection here an excellent specimen from Bristol, England, sent by Masee. The conclusion I reached at Upsala in 1906 was: "All the *Trametes serpens* found in Europe is entirely different from what goes by this name in America. The pores are larger and are all different."

When collecting in Cuba, I found the American plant very abundant, and it is surprising that it does not appear prominently in the list of Cuban fungi collected by Wright. The only description in this list that seems to fit it is of *Polyporus excurrens* (*Wright 391*), collected once in April on the underside of old logs and described by Berkeley and Curtis as

"Totus resupinatus, immarginatus, lignicolor; poris mediis subangulatis demum sinuosis, dissepimentis crassiusculis obtusis acie subtiliter tomentosus. Pores $\frac{1}{60}$ inch in diameter."

The type of this species was not found by me at Kew, and the brief description alone would hardly justify a positive statement regarding its identity. I have asked Miss Wakefield to look up the type.

In the "Ellis Collection," many specimens are found collected in Florida, where this species seems to be unusually abundant on various kinds of dead deciduous wood. These specimens are

sometimes called *Trametes serpens* Fries and sometimes *Polyporus Stephensii* Berk. & Br., an identical European species described from plants collected by Stephens on privet twigs near Bristol, England, in 1847.

The American plant ranges northward into South Carolina and southward to Brazil, showing considerable variation in the size, shape, and obliquity of its tubes, which are always smaller, however, and otherwise distinct from those of the true European *T. serpens*. The following collections I have examined will indicate the distribution:

Ellis & Ev. N. Am. Fungi 1707; Rav. Fungi Am. 112; Rav. Fungi Car. 4: 7; South Carolina, *Ravenel*; Louisiana, *Langlois 1612, 2512, 2559*; Florida, *Calkins 47, 51, 60, 68, 116, 130, Lloyd 2129, Ravenel, Rolfs 7, Mrs. Russell, Small & Mosier 5407*; Cuba, *Earle 1591, Earle & Murrill 117, 124, 144, 148, 152, 200, 305, 321, 459, 475, 476*; Jamaica, *Earle 469, Murrill & Harris 1020*; Porto Rico, *Stevens 8988*; St. Thomas, *Raunkiaer 180*; Mexico, *Murrill 642, Smith 205*; Colombia, *Baker*; Bolivia, *Bang 2310*; Brazil, *Möller*.

There has come to me recently from the Philippine Islands a specimen named *Elmeriana setulosa* (P. Henn.) Bres., which seems to match very closely our American plant. Another Philippine specimen named *Poria straminea* Bres. does not appear to be distinct from *E. setulosa* except in the obliquity of its tubes. A fine Philippine collection made by Mr. Williams, however, differs from both the above in its much larger and more shallow pores, suggesting in their size the plant with which we began this discussion, but evidently much more American than European in its affinities.

W. A. MURRILL.

THE GENUS PORIA

The name *Poria* was used generically by Dr. John Hill in his "History of Plants," published in 1751, to include certain large pileate species such as *Fomes Laricis* and *Fistulina hepatica*. On page 28, the genus was described as follows:

"*Poria* is a genus of Fungus's growing horizontally, but having its under-side not formed into lamellae, but full of little holes or pores . . ."